

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 10

**Conference Room Document 11
(English, French and Spanish)**

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

Thirty-third Session

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Discussion Paper on the APPLICATION OF HACCP in Small and/or Less Developed Businesses (*SLdBs*)

European Community Comments

The European Community would like to thank the Netherlands and its drafting partners for the preparation of this discussion paper on the implementation of HACCP in small and less developed businesses. The European Community supports the work of CCFH in considering the special problems associated with the application of the 7 principles of HACCP in small and less developed businesses and recommends that the Committee progresses this through the Codex step procedures.

The European Community agrees that the current Codex Guidelines on the Application of HACCP inhibit the more widespread utilisation of the 7 principles by SLDBs, and provide little guidance on how these principles can be applied in practice in SLDBs. It also agrees that the seven principles of HACCP themselves should not be altered in any way, but that the means by which they are applied requires a more flexible approach than the one in the applications part of the existing guidelines.

The text presented to the Committee opens the door for those businesses wishing to apply the 7 principles of HACCP, which were restricted by the drafting of the existing guidelines on the application of HACCP. It meets the objective of providing sufficient flexibility for food businesses of different sizes, with different practices and production systems. However, such flexibility should not lead to any dilution of public health protection.

The European Community supports the approach recommended in CX/FH 00/10 to adapt and elaborate the existing Guidelines on the application of HACCP.
